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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**



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SC 03513-77

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24 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Communications Intelligence Security Regulations (CISR) (U)

1. In recent months the Army has strived to improve the dissemination of intelligence in meeting the needs of tactical commanders. In addition, our training and exercise programs have stressed the peacetime play of all-source intelligence in order to qualify intelligence personnel for wartime duties.
2. The intelligence community has made considerable progress in the decompartmentation of satellite photographic reconnaissance products; achieving significant benefits without jeopardizing sensitive sources and methods. Conversely, little has been accomplished in reducing the stringencies associated with the Communications Intelligence (COMINT) compartment. As a consequence, our path to improved COMINT dissemination has been limited to providing greater numbers of security billets, establishing additional storage and communications facilities, and removing (where warranted) information from the COMINT compartment as authorized by the COMINT Security Regulation (CISR). This latter action is generally referred to as COMINT sanitization.
3. Removal of information from COMINT compartments (as prescribed in the CISR) is a cumbersome and time-consuming process because of the number of factors to be considered before sanitization is accomplished. The sanitizer is required to pursue a decision-tree analysis which includes variables such as:
  - a. The use to which the sanitized information is to be put.
  - b. The circumstances and situation existing at the time.
  - c. The COMINT Category involved.
  - d. The type of authority delegated to the sanitizer.

As many of these variables are subject to interpretation, we are constantly in a state of providing guidance to field users on specific sanitization questions.

Classified by Dir. Tact/Strat Intel, OACSI, DA  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2  
DECLASSIFY ON NOTIFICATION BY ORIGINATOR

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ARMY review(s) completed.

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4. The CISR must be realistic in establishing and defining parameters for compartmentation. It should also provide definitive guidelines to insure common understanding and application of COMINT security policy throughout the intelligence community. The complexities of "sanitization," with their attendant inefficiencies and delays, only serve to aggravate the dissemination problem. I therefore urge that you sponsor a zero-based review of the existing COMINT Security Regulation with an objective of:

- a. Reducing where possible the amount of COMINT data currently compartmented (with due consideration to sensitive sources, methods, and techniques).
- b. Reducing the number of COMINT compartment categories and sub-categories which currently exist.
- c. Streamlining and simplifying the sanitization process for removing product information from COMINT compartments.

5. In view of the importance I attach to this matter, I am willing to provide whatever support is required for accomplishment of this review.

  
HAROLD R. AARON  
Major General, GS  
ACofS for Intelligence

CF:  
DDI

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# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	D/DCI/IC	✓			
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S		✓		
15	DTR				
16	Asst/DCI				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
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Remarks:

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Date

*Amg*